



Fact Sheet: Media Information, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

UPDATED: May 2004



Background

The following information has been compiled to help facilitate visits by the media. The contents of this fact sheet are subject to change at any time. If you have any questions that are not covered in this Fact Sheet, contact the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Media Relations Office at 011-53-99-5017.

Lodging around NAS Jacksonville, Florida

The following is provided to you as suggestions for you while in Jacksonville. This is not an inclusive list.

- **Hotels:**
 - Best Western Hotel 904-264-4466
 - Country Inn Suites 904-772-7771
 - Hampton Inn 904-772-8881
 - La Quinta Inn 904-778-9539
- **Taxis:**
 - Gator City Taxi 904-355-8294
 - Citicab 904-425-2222
 - River City Car Service 904-777-0270
 - Yellow Cab Co. 904-260-1111

Arrival in Jacksonville, Florida, U.S.

Most of our visitors arrive in Jacksonville the night before the visit and stay in one of the local hotels. Upon arriving in Jacksonville, it is recommended that you take a cab to your hotel. Most hotels close to Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS JAX) will offer shuttle service to the base. For security reasons, rental vehicles do not have access to NAS JAX.

Travel by Air to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

- Media arrive at U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay (NS GTMO) via military aircraft from Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida (NAS JAX). The U.S. Government pays for this flight. A media escort representative will meet you at the **Yorktown Gate** (Highway 17) **no later than 7:00 a.m.** Do not allow your driver to take you to the air terminal.
- The escort will ensure that you clear security. Make sure to have the proper documentation (a birth certificate with a raised seal or passport) to ensure that you are manifested for the flight. **You must travel with your passport. Media representatives who do not have a passport will not be able to attend the media visit.** Foreign media representatives who are not US citizens must have an I-Visa (specifically for journalists) and a Passport.
- Ground rules should be signed prior to arrival and your escort at NAS JAX will take up the last page.
- The flight departs NAS JAX each **Tuesday** and is scheduled to arrive in NS GTMO around 12:30 pm.
- On this flight, you are authorized two check-in bags at 70 lbs (31.7 kg) each and one carry-on bag.
- Any additional bags or overweight check-in must be paid for in US Dollars (cash) at the time of check in. This is also true when departing Guantanamo Bay by commercial flight. Please note that there is no ATM machine at the either air terminal.



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Travel by Air to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, U.S.

- At the end of the visit you will fly out of U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, U.S. via commercial airline at your own expense. You can make your flight arrangements out of Fort Lauderdale International Airport (FLL).
- The following is provided to you as suggestions for use while in Fort Lauderdale. This is not an inclusive list.
 - Airlines. These are the only two commercial airlines on the island, because of this we urge you to make your flight reservations with them as soon as possible. **If you do not have a confirmed ticket leaving the island, before you are scheduled to leave U.S. Naval Station Jacksonville, you will not be able to attend the media visit.**
 - Lynx Air, 888-596-9247, (On Base: 011-53-99-4106)
 - The schedule of flights is highly subject to change. Flights are scheduled to take-off on:
 - Monday: 6:00 pm
 - Wednesday: 6:00 pm
 - Thursday: 6:00 pm
 - Friday: 10:30 am
 - Friday: 08:00, 11:00
 - Current Price: \$221.10
 - Weight: 70 lbs (31.82 kilos)
 - Sunshine Air, 800-327-8900 or 954-434-8900 (On Base: 011-53-99-4915)
 - The schedule of flights is highly subject to change. Flights are scheduled to take-off on:
 - Tuesday: 8:00 am
 - Friday: 8:00 am, 11:00 am
 - Current Price: \$251.00
 - Weight: 40 lbs (18.18 kilos), \$1.50 per pound over
 - Hotels:
 - Landmark Inn: 954-525-5194
 - Airport Inn: 954-920-3300
 - Taxis:
 - Yellow Cab: 954-777-7777

Travel on GTMO

- The Public Affairs Office provides all transportation for media during your stay at NS GTMO.

Communication – Telephone

- LCN, a private company, provides the telephone communications network.
- Phone communications are purchased in advance, which can be by credit card, cash, personal check, or money order on the day of arrival. (If paying by credit card, have a business card with contact information.)
- The average cost to N. America varies from 38-53 cents per minute, depending on the time of day.
- Calls to Europe vary between \$1.26 - \$1.75 per min.
- Calling cards and prepaid calling cards cost approximately 27 cents per minute in addition to your normal calling card rate, but access lines are limited. (Costs are subject to change.)
- We recommend you bring your personal laptop since computer support is not provided from JTF-GTMO.

Communication – Satellite

- LCN also provides the satellite communications network. Call Sterling, VA direct at 703-709-7902.
- Satellite time also is purchased in advance, which can be by credit card, cash, personal check or money order on the day of arrival



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- The digital uplink connects to satellite GE-4 with transponder 5C.
- The cost is \$800.00 per hour for any portion of that hour, and the cost includes all equipment to uplink to satellite and the satellite segment time.
- You can use a camera or editing equipment to hook into the HPA connection.

Lodging once you arrive at GTMO

- Lodging is at the Combined Bachelor Quarters (CBQ).
- The suite consists of two rooms with up to two people per room, i.e., four persons per suite (male and females are billeted in separate suites).
- Each suite has a kitchenette, microwave, refrigerator, and common bathroom.
- The cost is \$12.00 per night, per person. All major credit cards are accepted – Visa, MasterCard, and American Express, as well as cash, personal checks and travelers checks.
- Voltage is 115V AC. (Standard U.S. plugs)

Dining

- You are responsible for covering the costs of your meals. Military dining facilities are available, which offer a wide variety of meals. Breakfast costs \$1.60, and lunch and dinner cost \$3.25. **Sleeveless shirts and open-toe shoes are not permitted in the dining facilities at any of the Naval Base or inside Camp Delta.**

Weather

- Summer months
 - Fahrenheit: Temperature averages are between 90°F and 100°F with a heat index of over 100°F.
 - Celsius: Temperature averages are between 32°C and 38°C with a heat index of over 38°C.
- Winter months
 - Fahrenheit: Temperature averages are between 80°F and 90°F with a heat index of over 90°F.
 - Celsius: Temperature averages are between 27°C and 32°C with a heat index of over 32°C.

Dress Code

- Dress for a hot, tropical climate. Hats, sunscreen, lip balm, sunglasses, comfortable shoes and loose-fitting summer clothing are encouraged. Individuals must wear short or long sleeved shirts. **Sleeveless shirts and open-toe shoes are not permitted in the dining facilities at any of the Naval Base or inside Camp Delta. Individuals who are dressed not in accordance with this policy may be denied access to Camp Delta.**

Medical & Safety

- It is highly encouraged to consume plenty of water while at NS GTMO. The Media Relations staff will provide water. Additional water can be purchased at a local shoppette.
- Notify your personal physician as soon as possible to receive any necessary immunizations. Recommended immunizations include, but are not limited to: immune serum globulin, tetanus-diphtheria, oral polio, typhoid, yellow fever and malaria pills.

Miscellaneous

- There is a Navy Exchange (NEX) on base where you can purchase souvenirs such as hats, shirts, coffee mugs, etc. We normally arrange a trip to the NEX as time permits.
- An Automated Teller Machine (ATM) is available at the NEX
- Guantanamo Bay is on Eastern Standard Time.